

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

IN THE MATTER Of The Application	)	
Of The MOUNTAIN STATES TELEPHONE	)	UTILITY DIVISION
AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY (MOUNTAIN)	)	DOCKET NO. 83.12.85
BELL) For Authority To Offer Inside And	)	ORDER NO. 5042
Complex Wiring On A Fully Compensatory	)	
<u>Basis.</u>	)	

FINAL ORDER

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On December 30, 1982, the Commission issued Order No. 4951b in Docket No. 82.6.37. In that Order the Commission found that inside wiring should be provided by nonregulated entities at competitive prices. If the regulated utilities wished to remain in the inside wiring business after January 1, 1984, then they would have to do so within a fully separate subsidiary. The Order provided calendar year 1983 as a transition period for purposes of avoiding potential service and workforce disruptions. (Findings of Fact Nos. 28 and 38).
2. On December 2, 1983 Mountain Bell requested authority to continue to offer inside wiring. The application for authority proposes nontariffed, fully compensatory charges, and cites potential service disruption, the absence of FSS operations and a recent District Court finding in support of its application, (Application pp. 2-4).
3. On January 1, 1984, several major changes in the telephone industry will occur, including Computer II and divestiture. For purposes of avoiding any potential additional disruption, the Commission finds that the transition period provided in Order No. 4951b should be extended indefinitely. The indefinite extension allows for continued wiring operations per the tariffed provisions of the fully compensatory Premise Work service charge element per Docket No. 83.3.18.

4. Mountain Bell, however, is directed to make arrangements for informing inside wiring customers of the competitive alternatives. Any inside wiring inquiry - - simple or complex -- must be accompanied by a reference to the regulatory ability of the subscriber to perform the wiring themselves or to select a vendor through a competitive bid process.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Mountain Bell furnishes telephone service within the state of Montana and is a “public utility” under the regulatory jurisdiction of the Montana Public Service Commission. MCA 60-3-101.

2. The rate levels provided herein are reasonable and just. MCA 69-3-330.

#### ORDER

1. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Mountain Bell is authorized to continue inside wiring at the appropriate tariffed Premise Work charges set forth in Docket No. 83.3.18.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana, this 22nd, day of December, 1983, by a 5-0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Chairman

JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner

HOWARD L. ELLIS, Commissioner

CLYDE JARVIS, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Iris Basta, Acting Secretary

Madeline L. Cottrill  
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request the Commission to reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See ARM 38.2.4806.